

2016

SAGE-YPP Campus Day

White, Matthew

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SAGE-YPP

Matt White

Overview

- The Student Advisory Group on Engagement (SAGE) is made up of undergraduate students from across campus and disciplines who collaborate with faculty, and community members to create and enhance engaged learning opportunities by integrating the voices, ideas, and attitudes of students and community members

Overview

- The Young People's Project(YPP) is a math literacy program for that uses a near-peer model
 - YPP hires undergraduates students to train high schools in how to teach math to middle and upper elementary school students in their communities
 - The goal of YPP is to help students from traditionally marginalized populations develop both math literacy skills and participate in community building and engagement

Objectives

- SAGE organized the campus day with two broad goals:
 - To evaluate that training high school students in YPP receive
 - To instruct them in basic foundational skills for conducting a research project like how to navigate a library and using a library database

What We Accomplished

- Successfully ran three focus groups to evaluate the effectiveness of the training that the high school math literacy workers receive and to see if they view the work they do as social justice
- Conducted a library tour, presentation and activity that introduced them to resources available in the library and how to navigate the resources

Challenges

- Communication
 - At times information got jumbled while trying to communicate between SAGE, YPP, and the library
 - Exasperated by inconsistency in team members (some members entered and exited the project at different points)

Real-Life Impact

- Strengthened community partnerships by exposing high school students from the surrounding communities to the University environment and helped foster skills essential to success in higher education
- Advocated for inclusion and diversity by exposing the students to a diverse student body and giving them support to access higher education

What I learned

- Leadership skills
- How to motivate and encourage people to work together
- Improved interpersonal communications skills:
 - Interacting and conveying information to people of diverse backgrounds
- Decision making and planning skills

Library Partnership

- Librarian Alex Rivera contributed expertise in necessary skills for navigating a library for research
 - Assisted in organizing and implementing a scavenger hunt in the library
 - Lead a discussion on identifying credible sources when conducting research

Library Partnership

- Use of library space
 - Showed high school students that a library is a safe space for them
 - Demonstrated the wide variety of resources available in a library-both physical and electronic
 - Gave high school students the basic skills needed to navigate the library space

Acknowledgments

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 - Morghan Williams, project coordinator for YPP for southeast Michigan. Helped envision the goals of the campus day, and assisted in logistics and planning
 - Xochitl Calix-Ulloa, a former YPP high school and college mentor and a member of SAGE. Greatly assisted in developing and executing the campus day

Sponsorship Line

- This project is sponsored by a 2015-2016 mini-grant awarded through the University Library's Student Engagement Program. As part of the mini-grant, I was paired with Alex Rivera, student enrichment and community outreach librarian.